

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes January 22, 2007

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Kathy Halliday
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz

Members Absent:

Angela Barnett
Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Stacie Hull
Joan Loftus
Marc Weinstein

Amy Axel, who has been recommended to the County Executive to fill vacancies in the category of “individuals representing agencies serving people with disabilities”, was also in attendance.

- I. Vice Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the September 2006 meeting were approved as presented. The minutes of the November 2006 meeting were approved with correction. (There were no minutes of the October 2006 meeting because there was no quorum.)
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee:
 1. Membership: Kathy Halliday submitted the Membership Committee’s recommendation of Helen Dubay to fill the vacancy in the category of “County citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business”. The Commission voted to recommend



Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities

Ms. Dubay to the County Executive to fill the vacancy. Kathy also reported that seven applicants who were not selected for Commission will be sent letters inviting them to accept Associate Membership, as defined in recent amendments to the Commission bylaws.

2. Debbie Braam presented the 2006 Annual Report for Commission approval. The Commission voted to approve the report and to forward it the County Executive, the County Council, and the Harford Delegation.
3. Debbie Braam presented the 2007/2008 Strategic Plan for Commission approval. The Commission approved the Strategic Plan with modification.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Renters and Homeowners Program: Sharon Grzanka reported that no ramps had been erected at this point. A meeting with Rebuilding Together staff has been scheduled for February 2nd.
2. Housing Coalition: No new information.

C. Education Committee: Debbie Braam reported that the next Expo for Individuals with Disabilities will be held in March 2008. The planning committee will hold its first meeting in March 2007.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee

1. Commission web page: Sharon Grzanka reported for Bob Coen, who could not attend the meeting. The Commission's Legislative Guide is available on the Commission's web page during the Maryland Legislative Session; web links for youth with disabilities have been added; and the Commission's new Spotlight on Services on the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) will be available January 23rd.
2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz provided the first legislative review of the session. Commissioners voted to decline from supporting a proposed Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities bill to require the establishment of a Commission in each jurisdiction. The Commission voted to approve the Commission 2007 Public Policy

Statement, which will be forwarded along with the Annual Report to the County Executive, the County Council and the Harford Delegation.

- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon Grzanka reported that:
 - A. Commissioners Laurie Kwiedorowicz and Angela Barnett are serving on the FY2008 Grant-in-Aid Citizen Review Board;
 - B. A Public Notice on Harford County and the Americans with Disabilities Act has been published in the Aegis. The notice will be published every January; and
 - C. The Department of Parks and Recreation and the Liriodendron Foundation are planning accessibility upgrades to the historic facility. More information to follow.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. Transportation Steering Committee: Sharon Grzanka has provided a copy of the “You Can Ride...Harford Transit” video to the Harford County web master for posting on the Commission’s web page.
 - B. Harford County Town Hall Meeting: This Commission co-sponsored event was held on December 4th. Attendance was excellent; the County Executive welcomed attendees; and cross-disability issues were discussed. Harford County service provider agencies and organizations also exhibited their programs.
 - C. Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities: Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and the Committee to establish the committee as the Employment Committee of the Commission.
- VI. New Business: There was none.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements:
 - A. Councilman Guthrie announced that there is a new Harford Transit bus stop across the street from the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road in Edgewood.
 - B. Kevin Racine discussed regional transit issues.

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.